



**One Stop Operations/WorkFirst Collaborative Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 25, 2015**

County of Middlesex- Office of Workforce Development
550 Jersey Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901
WIA Conference Room B — 1:30 PM

Attendees: Mariana Beshai-Ascander, Roseann Bucciarelli, Sharon Crossland, Sherri Goldberg, Jose Laureano, Henrietta Wilson, Miriam Ruiz, Timothy Timberlake, Linda Urbach, Tom Zsiga

Staff: Kevin Kurdziel, Lori Miranda; Julie Piano, John Ross, and Diane Seavers

Julie Piano called the meeting to order at 1:38 pm.

Review and Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the March 26, 2015 One Stop Operations Committee was presented. John Ross made a motion for the approval of the minutes. Linda Urbach seconded and the minutes was unanimously approved.

Update on Funding – Julie Piano

Program Year 2014 & Program Year 2015

The Operations Unit served close to 349 ITA's for this program year. There is a decrease in overall funding for the upcoming Program Year compared to the current year's allocation. The highest reduction is in the Dislocated Worker funds. Thus far, the Notices of Obligation (NOO) received are indicating a funding cut of about 10.8%. This translates into fewer contracts that can be written for the next program year.

UI Issues- Julie Piano

WIA staff and clients are feeling the impact of the closure of the Unemployment Insurance (UI) office at the One Stop Career Center in New Brunswick. There has been a drastic decrease of clients coming to the NB One Stop Center. From meetings attended at the state, additional closures of UI offices are expected to continue statewide.

- The UI office initially laid off several staff who were deemed ineligible to collect Additional Benefits for Training (ABT) benefits. A new ruling now makes them eligible to collect ABT.
- Parking has been an issue for the Perth Amboy UI location. It is a hardship for clients as there is no free parking available.

Literacy/ High School Equivalency – Tim Timberlake

- New Brunswick Public Schools/Adult Learning Center is having a graduation on Thursday, June 25, 2015 for 200 graduates. There are 44 students from the C.A.R.E.S. High School Program; 156 High School Equivalency (HSE) including 37 NJ Youth Corps of Middlesex who will graduate. The majority were Spanish HSE compared to English HSE. There were 214 graduates in 2014 last year and 200 in 2013.
- Computer Based Testing will start on January 1, 2016. NBPS will reduce testing to 20-25 customers per testing session. The testing center was renewed for three years and also the testing centers can now be in for profit organizations.
- Summer classes will start on July 4, 2015 - three days per week.

Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) – Update

- WIOA Work Groups were created to address each of the NJDOL and LWD key WIOA components such as Governance, Planning, Performance Accountability, One Stop Operations, Career Pathways and Industry Partnership, Services to Individuals with Disabilities and Services to Youth.
- SETC, State WIB, developed the WIOA Blueprint for the State of New Jersey that provides information on WIOA.
- One Stop Operations and Program Services department have been changing forms and process mapping procedures which will be effective as of July 1, 2015.
- Performance Measures will not be effective until July, 2016. However, clients served from July 1, 2015 will become the baseline that will be included in the WIOA performance measures. We will continue to update everyone on the status of the WIOA performance measures.
- At the State level there is discussion to align WFNJ with WIOA. The state will prioritize services focusing on customers with barriers.

Work First NJ Update - John Ross/ Jean Zwingli

In addition to March 2015 to May 2015 statistics, the following information was reported:

- Agreements between Middlesex County and NBALC and MCC for WFNJ activities in July 2015 were approved by the Board of Freeholders on June 18th.
- Agreements between Middlesex County and NBALC and MCC for WFNJ activities for Aug. 2015 through June 2016 will be approved by the Board of Freeholders on July 23rd.
- Agreement between T&L One, LLC and Middlesex County for FY-2016 was approved on June 18th. T&L One will be the new WFNJ TANF Transportation Carrier for the Shared Ride Program.
- The MOU between Middlesex County Board of Social Services and Office of Workforce Development for TANF transportation was executed on June 9th.
- The Agreement between State of NJ (DHS/DFD) and Middlesex County for Block Grant Funds for transportation of TANF to WFNJ activities will be considered by the Board of Freeholders on July 23rd.
- We are currently awaiting the monitoring report by DFD on FY-2015 transportation program.

- OS TANF Case Managers are reviewing monthly TANF Denominator Reports and providing feedback/report to One Stop Manager until the Participation Rate increases to a satisfactory level.

Work First New Jersey-Middlesex County

March 2015 through May 2015

Year to Date

TANF

Referrals:	742	2613
New Enrollments:	345	1,372
Show Rate:	46.4% avg.	52.2% avg.
Total Served:	859	3480
Placements:	65	307
Engagement:	135	506
Reengagement:	161	654
Total Contacts:	1,223	3,475

GA/SNAP

Referrals:	1,788	5,456
New Enrollments:	729	2,262
Show Rate	41.1% avg.	37.8% avg.
Total Served:	2,562	7,981
Placements:	75	213

TANF Participation Rate

July '14	21.1%	Nov. '14	22.2%	Mar. '15	22.9%
Aug. '14	18.1%	Dec. '14	25.4%	Apr. '15	24.9%
Sept. '14	18.1%	Jan. '15	23.5%	May '15	NA
Oct. '14	24.4%	Feb. '15	21.9%	June '15	NA

Update from Collaborative Members/ Other Business

- Sherri Goldberg
 - Jewish Renaissance Foundation (JRF) responded to a RFQ to become a computer based testing center.
 - JRF maintains a great partnership with Perth Amboy One Stop Career Center. They have 6 workshops scheduled in August at the One Stop Career Center.
 - In the near future a Social Enterprise, inspired by music, called "One Mic Internet Café", will be devoted to host a hospitality training program for youth up to 30 years old. It will have dedicated space for art and creativity and an operating recording studio will also be available. Training programs will be dedicated to the

music industry - for DJs, music and producing. There will also be video components in the future as well. The building under contract is located between Market Street and Smith Street in Perth Amboy, across from the Cathedral Church. There will be a soft opening in October or November 2015 and full grand opening in January 2016.

➤ Julie Piano

- The Literacy committee brochures are being updated to determine different places that offers ABE/ESL and HSE. The group updated their own schools. The flyers will be distributed once completed.
- The One Stop Operations/ WFNJ Collaborative Committee will be undergoing a change in the near future. John Ross will be working closely with the WFNJ committee members to establish a separate committee to address any WFNJ concerns. The One Stop Operations committee will continue to meet quarterly to discuss the overall operations of the One Stop and its partners.
- The Perth Amboy Education Center had their graduation on Wednesday, June 24, 2015. Also, Middlesex County College had a youth graduation in early June.
- The Workforce Learning Link (WLL) has space for 45 more clients for Computer Literacy, ABE and HSE. If anyone is interested in HSE they must be at least at a grade equivalent of 9 or higher. WLL contract ends June 30, 2015.
- Job Fairs – There was a job fair on Wednesday, June 3, 2015 at the Old Bridge Township Civic Center located at 1 Old Bridge Plaza.
- We received notification that on July 31, 2015 Johnson Control will lay off 300 people.

- Mariana Beshai-Ascander started last month as the new WFNJ OJT Representative for all Middlesex County WorkFirst clients. She is attending job fairs, setting up meetings with employers discussing the OJT program and following up with the employers. She is also working directly with the TANF/GA/SNAP clients and giving them the OJT letters to distribute to employers to entice them to hire our clients. The WFNJ program is an incentive for employers to hire our WFNJ clients.
- John Ross discussed the WFNJ OJT program has certain limitations. Students will not be placed in OJT unless the employer pays a minimum of \$10.00 an hour and must be full time of at least 30 hours per week.
- John Ross welcomed Jose Laureano, Director of the MCC Perth Amboy Center who replaced Maria Mora.
- Tim Timberlake announced that Mr. Aubrey H. Johnson is the new Superintendent of Schools.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:18 PM.

The next One Stop Operations/WorkFirst Collaborative Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 3, 2015 at 1:30 pm.

Information/Handout Distributed to Members

None

MIDDLESEX COUNTY
ONE STOP OPERATIONS/WORKFIRST COLLABORATIVE MEETING
Thursday, June 25 – 1:30 PM

**Location: New Brunswick One Stop Career Center
Office of Workforce Development
550 Jersey Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901
WIA Conference Room B**

AGENDA

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| I. | Welcome and Introductions | |
| II. | Approval of Minutes: March 26, 2015 Meeting | |
| III. | Update on Funding
2014 | Program Year
Program Year 2015 |
| IV. | UI Issues | |
| V. | Literacy/ High School Equivalency | |
| VI. | Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) – Update | |
| VII. | Work First NJ Update - John Ross/ Jean Zwingli | |
| VIII. | Update from Collaborative Members/ Other Business | |
| IX. | Adjournment | |

**NEXT MEETING: Thursday, September 24, 2015 550
Jersey Avenue, New Brunswick NJ 08901**